

Thoughts from Rhonda Jackson, Co-Editor

Lordly

Ever feel proud of being Christian? Do you actively think – *I've studied Scripture, I go to church every week, I tithe Biblically, and I can't imagine anything more I could possibly do to deepen my relationship with Jesus?*

Yeah, me neither. As believers, we recognize that God understood that we pesky peons were sinners, that we try and fail thousands of times to be good people, and still chose not only to absolutely adore us anyway but also to send His only Son to walk a few miles in our shoes as a human; to suffer a horrible death to expunge our sins, and to rise again to charge us with the great commission to make disciples wherever we go. Which would be awfully daunting and non-doable, were it not for the Holy Spirit, which He left with us and within us, out of sheer love! We are, and rightly so, in awe – and awe is even too tiny a word – of our Lord, and of our purpose and our place in His story...and that we even have a purpose and a place! And so we make it our life's work to know Him. And we never, ever feel complacent. We're humble. We're blessed.

So it is with the most profound pity that we regard unbelievers. Those who hear the story of Jesus Christ and reject it outright. Whose ignorance (or worse, arrogance) tells them theirs is the better way; that this world is the end-all, that there are only random occurrences and not divine interventions, that science trumps faith, that life sucks and then you die, and that all those silly Christians may as well believe in Casper the Friendly Ghost, because he is equally real.

Atheists are no more inferior than we are arrogant. They're just lost. So we pray for them, and we *strive* - to speak and act and live in such a way that they want to know Him too.



Celebrating Midge DeSesa

When some people envision a woman in her ninth decade of life, they often have images of someone who is quiet, dull, sedentary, and disinterested in life. Those who know her will confirm that Midge blows those images right out of the water!

Midge has a long history of being an active participant in life who has taken advantage of opportunities to learn, grow, and make her life and the lives of others better. Raised in lower Manhattan by immigrant parents, Midge began serving meals in her parents' Italian restaurant at a very young age. Throughout her school years, she would come "home" for lunch and use the time waiting on tables in the restaurant. By her teen years she was keeping the books and, as her parents took a break, managing the restaurant.

At age sixteen she met a young man at a party in the apartment building where she lived. He would tell people that he fell in love with her the minute he saw her. They married two years later.

She was barely married when her husband was drafted. During his absence she worked three jobs--a secretary during the day, assisting in her parents' restaurant during her lunch breaks, and with a book club business in the evenings. She was able to save \$7000 (an impressive amount in the 1950s) that enabled her husband and her to purchase a house in New Jersey when he was discharged. Her husband's jobs took them to the Bronx, Washington DC, and then Baltimore where he worked as a cameraman for WBAL TV. His last job was in the Pentagon, producing high security programs for 30 years. During that time, Midge kept herself occupied raising four children.

Midge's husband died in 2006. She was devastated but found a new purpose in caring for her mother who had lived with them for 26 years. In 2011, at 110 years of age, her mother died leaving her feeling without purpose. As she wondered what her focus would be, she happened to open the Towson Times newspaper and saw an ad about a COFFEE group that

was meeting at the Lodge. It caught her interest and she attended. As Midge describes it, it was "instant karma." She connected with several women at that first meeting and knew this was a group she wanted to be part of.

Although she originally attended the group to escape her loneliness, she soon began to realize Roses & Rainbows Ministries was fulfilling other needs. Her experience with church in the past had not been a fulfilling one. She had been fearful of God, seeing Him as a punitive being. It wasn't long in her journey with the ministry that her view changed. She now sees God as loving, merciful, and someone who has become a more integral part of her daily life, a friend she can relate to.

Midge likes to tell the story of the day when she left the COFFEE group right after the study, without staying to mingle with the "gals" as she typically did. She felt tired and decided to go directly home instead of making her planned stops. When she entered her house, she noticed a fireplace poker on one of her white dining room chairs. Knowing she would never have left it there, she called the police and then alerted her neighbor to check behind her own house. The burglars ran when they spotted the neighbor looking at them. When the police arrived, they told Midge how lucky she was not to have arrived earlier because the poker was probably meant to be used on her if she had confronted them.

Later that day, Midge told Kim about the robbery attempt and what a coincidence it was that she left COFFEE early that day, thereby shattering the robbers' plans. Kim responded that it was no coincidence but God at work. Midge says this caused her to appreciate God's role in her life in a new way and made her faith more vibrant.

Midge serves as a "mother figure" for many women, offering guidance and prayers. A story she loves to share involves a time that her daughter called her, requesting prayer for a critically ill friend. The doctors had told the family to go home as the woman was comatose and so ill that she most likely wouldn't survive until morning. Midge prayed and asked a designated COFFEE prayer group to do the same. When the family returned to the hospital the next day, the doctor immediately approached them. He said that neither he nor any of his staff could understand it, but the woman had fully recovered. Her recovery was so profound that she was discharged that very day. This evidence of God's mercy and response reinforced all the positive views of Him that Midge now holds.

Hard working...dedicated...faithful...friendly...compassionate... a servant's heart.... Midge contributes to the ministry by her very presence and is a wonderful role model for women of all ages!



A Comment from Kim...

Where do I begin? I picture Midge walking into our COFFEE gatherings at the Lodge and I can't help but smile. I think of her sitting at the front table when I'm teaching and I'm comforted by her presence there. Midge is full of life...and energy...and fun! When she shares her stories, her words are filled with wisdom...though she doesn't see that in herself...and I love to listen to her! As she's discovered how our God loves and cares for us, it's been my joy to walk with her through part of that journey. I simply adore my beautiful friend Midge - I could not LOVE HER more!!!

Be on the lookout for information on an upcoming trip to Sight and Sound Theater in Lancaster, PA to see the production of "David." Last year's trip was such a good time and we'd love to do it again. Details coming soon!

What's Going On...

* Have you heard about our **FRIENDS OF FAITH Tour Across America**? Our next stop is on April 2 in Mesquite, Texas, (just outside of Dallas). **REGISTER HERE!**

To see all the places we'll go, visit kimcrabill.org/registerforevents

Get some friends together for a road trip to meet Kim in another state - you can join the

* **Roses and Rainbows Broadcasting** is up and running on You Tube! SUBSCRIBE to view the COFFEE with Kim TV-talk show, live streams, interviews, teachings and more.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvyRf1ye10pMn7URBvty9Tg>

* A new **Burdens to Blessings** study will

fun and meet new friends! Interested in hosting a gathering? Contact us and let's talk! admin@kimcrabill.org

be starting this spring! Stay tuned for details or email admin@kimcrabill.org for information.

There's still time to join our current study, "My Heart's Song: Living the Lyrics of My Life." This series, based on Psalm 119, is showing the personal way God speaks to us through His Word! Wednesdays 10 AM ET or 7 PM ET on Zoom. Join us for the last 3 weeks starting on March 30 - it will be worth it! Email admin@kimcrabill.org



A Note from Kim

We had prayed for 40 days. The room was decorated. The name tags were ready. The camera was set. The doors opened...and in flowed the women. We would find out they were from all parts of the state, a few even from Maryland, some new to the area not knowing anyone, most not sure what to expect. And as that room filled with women, it also filled with an excitement that kept building through the morning!

Friends, this was the scenario as we began our kickoff event of the FRIENDS OF FAITH Tour Across America! We had asked God to show up in a big way but it's hard to put into words how He worked in that room on February 26.

It was clear that all were eager to meet new friends and as hearts were shared, God's presence became electrifying! No one wanted to leave! We saw that friendship is God's solution to heal the disease of loneliness...the true ministry of friendship. I'm thankful for our team in Augusta who worked so hard to make the day amazing and for those God has raised up across the country to do the same. We are all called to the ministry of friendship. I hope you'll join us at an event along the way!



In what month will the **Friends of Faith Tour Across America** make FOUR stops in Texas?
Find out at kimcrabill.org!

Become a Partner for Healing and Hope!

Did you know that your donations touch the lives of women, men, teens and children with God's love? When you become a monthly partner, every dollar goes directly toward our mission of reaching across the world with God's healing and hope! We thank you for each and every donation, no matter the size!

[DONATE HERE!](#)

Gratitude Contributes to Wellness

Healthy Living Tips from Dr. Charlotte Eliopoulos, Co-Editor

Between eliminating things from our to-do list and being absorbed in activities most of our waking hours, we may be at risk of overlooking all that we have to be thankful for in our lives. When we take time to reflect on our blessings and offer thanks, we not only are honoring the Lord for His work in our lives, but we're also contributing to our health.

Studies have shown that grateful people manage stress better, demonstrate higher levels of physical and mental health, experience a higher quality of personal relationships, tend to be more optimistic, have lower blood pressure, enjoy a higher quality of sleep, and recover faster from illness and injury. Children who show gratitude have been found to have higher levels of school performance.

In addition to contributing to our physical and emotional well-being, gratitude shows our commitment to the Lord as he shows mercies to us which are often undeserved. Like Jesus who often expressed gratitude to His Father, we too should remember to build gratitude into our daily lives.

Cook's Corner By Nancy Spicer

Creamy Mushroom Soup/Sauce

I created this recipe as a delicious replacement for canned condensed soups in recipes. Although the canned version is tasty and very convenient, it also contains MSG, caramel color, excessive sodium, and other preservatives and chemicals that it is wise to limit in one's diet. This recipe happens to be Keto-friendly.

Not only is this a replacement for canned soup, it can be used to make Swedish meatballs. Just put your cooked meatballs and the soup in the crockpot and voila! It also makes a delicious soup, sauce for beef, chicken – use your imagination.

Replacing canned soup with this recipe for the traditional green bean casserole recipe will wow your friends and family. To go a step further, I suggest replacing the canned fried onions with a lovely caramelized onion topped with toasted, slivered almonds. You'll never go back.

In 1 T butter, sauté:

- 1 lb sliced mushrooms (I use a bag of Wegman's frozen Fire Roasted Button Mushrooms*)
- 1 chopped red onion
- 2 T broth or white wine
- 1 T Balsamic vinegar
- Sauté until mushrooms are tender. (If using fresh mushrooms, you want the additional liquid from the mushrooms to cook down.)
- Stir in 1 ½ cups chicken stock. (You may puree this if you want a smooth sauce. I like to leave my sauce chunky.)
- Dissolve 2 T corn starch in ¼ cup water. Add to mixture and stir to thicken.
- Stir in ¾ c cream (or half and half).
- Add: ½ t garlic powder and ½ t sea salt. Simmer a few minutes to heat through and bring to a creamy consistency. Ready to serve.

NOTE: You may adjust the amount of liquid that you add based on the consistency that you prefer.

ENJOY!



Charlotte Eliopoulos
Co-Editor

**If you have feedback, or
an idea for a story, tell us
at newsletter@kimcrabill.org**

**To learn more about our
ministry, please visit
www.kimcrabill.org**



Rhonda Jackson
Co-Editor